United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides to establish United Nations Operation in Mozambique, until 31 October next year; calls on Mozambican Government and RENAMO to cooperate fully with Secretary-General's interim Special Representative and respect scrupulously cease-fire; asks Secretary-General to seek economies through phased deployment of Force.

+ Secretary-General asks NATO to inform him of possible contingency plans for operations to ensure respect for "no-fly zone" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, safe havens and prevention of strife in Kosovo from spreading to Macedonia; sends message to Ministerial Meeting of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

+ National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea is holding four United Nations military Observers, two local UNTAC staff and 15 Indonesian peace-keepers; quick resolution of situation anticipated.

+ Four Assistant Secretary-General posts in Department of Administration and Management to be eliminated as of 1 January; offices to be headed instead by Directors with same functions and authority.

+ In El Salvador and Nicaragua, Secretary-General holds meetings with United Nations senior officials, President Cristiani, leaders of FMLN and President of Nicaragua, on Peace Agreement and its consolidation in El Salvador.

+ Israel deeply concerned over, what it calls, "extensive racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic outbursts which have taken place recently in many countries".

+ Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Arab Maghreb Union, in wake of Security Council decision not to lift sanctions against Libya, argue that measures have been taken to hand over for prosecution those believed to be responsible for destruction of two aircraft.

+ United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, meeting in Geneva for its eighth session, ends three days of deliberations under new chairmanship of Nicolas Valticos.

+ General Committee recommends consideration of convening of international conference on Somalia at General Assembly's current session.

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The Security Council decided this afternoon to establish a United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), until 31 October next year, as proposed by the Secretary-General and in line with the General Peace Agreement, signed by the parties on 4 October. The Secretary-General had recommended in his report of 3 December that a United Nations presence be established in Mozambique to demobilize and disarm the two sides's forces and provide assistance for democratic elections scheduled for next fall.

In adopting resolution 797 (1992) unanimously, the Council called on the Mozambican Government and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) to cooperate fully with the interim Special Representative and with ONUMOZ and to respect scrupulously the cease-fire and all the commitments entered into force under the Peace Agreement.

The Council endorsed the approach of the Secretary-General with regard to the timetable for the electoral process and invited him to consult closely with all the parties on the precise timing of and preparations for the presidential and legislative elections, as well as other major aspects of the Agreement and to report back to the Council as soon as possible.

In his report to the Council, the Secretary-General had pointed to the fact that it would not be possible to create the conditions for a successful election in that country "unless the military situation was brought fully under control". According to his recommendations, ONUMOZ would consist of 354 military observers; five infantry battalions each comprising 850 personnel; one engineer battalion; and air, communications, medical and movement control support units.

The electoral division would consist of up to 148 international staff, followed by the deployment of up to 1,200 international observers for the elections themselves. An Office of the interim Special Representative for Mozambique would also be established, as well as an Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to oversee aid to the returning refugees when conditions in the country permit.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali appointed in mid-October an interim Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello of Italy, who went to Maputo together with 21 United Nations military observers to assist the parties in working out details concerning the peace agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to share with him the results of any planning studies undertaken by it on "operations to ensure respect for the 'no-fly zone' in Bosnia and Herzegovina". He also asked for information on plans to

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create safe havens and measures to prevent strife in Kosovo from spilling over into Macedonia.

The request was put forward in a letter to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Wörner. In the document, the Secretary-General states that those questions were very much on his mind as he was endeavouring to implement the various mandates relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina and considering what measures might be recommended to the Security Council "to try to prevent the various conflicts in the former Yugoslavia from spreading more widely". Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he had been informed by his Special Envoy, Cyrus Vance, of his meeting with NATO on 4 December during which the question of NATO planning for such operations was raised as a possiblity.

In a related development, the Secretary-General today sent a message to the Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, which began today in Geneva, saying that the current situation demanded statesmanship "of the highest order". He noted that the road ahead lay through continuous negotiations in good faith, not in actions which would serve to continue or escalate the violence.

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The National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) is currently holding four United Nations military Observers, two local staff and 15 Indonesian peace-keepers, according to reports from the Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today. However, negotiations have begun for the release of the detainees, using the Mixed Military Working Group, an organ created by the Paris Peace Accords to deal with such maters.

The Spokesman said the local NADK commander had informed UNTAC that he would release the detainees as soon as he received orders to do so. The United Nations anticipates a quick resolution of the situation.

Two of the military observers were detained by the NADK yesterday and brought to Phum O Sala, as they were heading towards Phum Ampus to meet a registration team and a civilian political unit to evaluate the possibility of beginning registration there. As a precautionary measure this morning, two other military observers and a platoon of 15 Indonesian peace-keepers proceeded, with a NADK guide, to Phum O Sala. Later today, the UNTAC received word by radio that the NADK was holding all four military observers, two local UNTAC staff and the 15 peace-keepers.

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The Spokesman for the Secretary-General today announced further details of the Secretary-General's planned elimination of four Assistant Secretary-General posts in the Department of Administration and Management. As of 1 January 1993, four of the offices will be headed instead by officials at the Director (D-2) level with the same functions and authority as those previously exercised by the Assistant Secretaries-General.

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The directorships will be assigned as follows: Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, and Controller - Jacques Baudot; Conference Services - Françoise Cestac; Human Resources Management - Armando Duque, and General Services - Carole Thompson.

The Field Operations Division will be transferred to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Director will be Per Sjogren (at the D-2 level). The Management Advisory Service, under the same office, will be headed by Joseph Klee, as Chief of Service (D-1). Oleg Bugaev will be Director (D-2) of the Internal Audit Division.

The Secretary-General has also approved the reorganization of the Office of Conference Services and the Office of General Services, and details on those changes, his Spokesman said, will be released shortly.

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Continuing his visit to El Salvador, the Secretary-General met this morning with the Director of United Nations Office in El Salvador and with other high officials of the United Nations system in that country.

According to a press communiqué issued by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), the Secretary-General was expected to travel to Nicaragua today for meetings with Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro. He would leave Managua for New York early this afternoon.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with President Cristiani of El Salvador and other senior Government officials for a discussion of implementation of the Peace Agreement and its consolidation in that country. He also met with leaders of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), now an established political party, with whom he discussed the peace process and the role ONUSAL would play in that regard.

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Israel has expressed deep concern over what it calls "the extensive racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic outbursts which have taken place recently in many countries".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Israeli Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi, said the "flames set by racists and bigots" recalled memories of the "horrible inferno of Nazism, which consumed the lives of tens of millions from many nations and destroyed a third of the Jewish people". He cited a communiqué issued by the Israeli Government condemning the "recent neo-Nazi, racist and anti-semitic phenomena" and saying that the Israeli Cabinet would continue to be active in the monitoring of anti-semitic phenomena everywhere.

Mr. Yaacobi wrote that it was the duty of the world to remember the atrocities of the past. Nations should enact appropriate legislation and severely punish those who committed acts of racist violence. "It is our duty

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and our mission to condemn this threat without hesitation, and put an end to it", the Israeli Ambassador said.

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In the wake of the Security Council decision last Wednesday not to lift sanctions against Libya, both the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Government and the Arab Maghreb Union have written to the President of the Council, arguing that in fact Libya had taken the measures required of it to prove its opposition to terrorism and to make available for prosecution those believed to be responsible for the destruction of two aircraft.

The Foreign Secretary of the Libyan Government wrote that, among other moves, his country had severed its relations with all terrorist groups, did not permit its territory to be used for the training of terrorists and had cooperated constructively with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France to trace those responsible for the terrorist acts concerning them.

All that remained, he said, was to arrange for the site of the trial -- in an agreed upon neutral country, of those involved in the downing of Pan Am flight 103. On the basis of this, it should be obvious that Libya had effectively implemented the Security Council demands of it and that had justified the lifting of the Council's sanctions against it, he argued.

The Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union, meeting in Rabat on 10 December, adopted a communiqué stating their determination to "persist in efforts to identify a peaceful, just and honourable solution to the Libyan/Western crisis with a view to ending the embargo" imposed against Libya.

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The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, meeting in Geneva for its eighth session, today ended three days of deliberations under the new chairmanship of Nicolas Valticos. It heard reports on the emplacement of 105 pillars marking the land boundary of Iraq and Kuwait and on further investigation of the boundary in the Khowr Zhobeir.

The Commission continued its consideration of the off-shore section of the boundary in Khowr Abd Allah and concluded that it had a sufficient basis to proceed with demarcation. It further decided that the basic principle governing the demarcation of the boundary line in Khowr Abd Allah should be the median line, with the principal purpose of the frontier settlement being navigational access for both parties.

The Commission will continue its work on the implementation of this decision regarding the boundary in the off-shore section at its next session, which is scheduled for 8 to 12 March 1993.

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The General Committee this morning recommended that the General Assembly include in its agenda for the current session a new item calling for the convening of an international conference on Somalia. If adopted, the recommendation would bring to 152 the number of agenda items for the current Assembly session.

The Committee took this action in response to a letter from the Permanent Representative of Senegal in which he requested that the item be given priority consideration in the plenary.

Annexed to the letter was a memorandum which stated that the proposal for a conference was supported by a vast majority of the international community, and would fall within the framework of the action currently being undertaken in Somalia by the Security Council, the Secretary-General and all humanitarian organizations. It stated that the conference would provide an appropriate framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Somali crisis which would assist the country's national reconciliation and the reconstruction of its national economy.

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